

I would like to make you all aware of a resource that is available to make it easier for you to access timely and useful information. The Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support (CNC) is the national information and referral arm of Casey Family Programs. They offer a wide variety of materials and services including:

Website Resources

The CNC website (<http://www.casey.org/cnc>) provides a wealth of useful and reproducible information that is updated regularly. Major publications available for downloading from the site include *Foster Care Today*, an examination of foster care at the start of the 21st century, *Partners: Working with the Business Community to Recruit Resource Families*, and *Dual Licensure for Foster and Adoptive Parents: Evolving Best Practices*. Other major publications, as well as numerous shorter resource articles, are grouped into areas of interest in Recruitment, Support/Retention, and Policy Issues.

Technical Assistance

The CNC provides technical assistance using a collaborative team strategy and has just begun the Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Recruiting and Retaining Resource Families. Twenty-six public child welfare jurisdictions, some of which are our Family to Family sites, are participating in the collaborative over the next year to develop improvements via a method of rapid cycle change. The CNC website will be providing information about the exciting work of these teams (see http://www.casey.org/cnc/recruitment/breakthrough_series_recruitment.htm).

Newsletter

An electronic newsletter, CNC Weekly Update, presents up to six items of interest to child welfare professionals and/or resource families each week. Sign up by typing your email address in the subscription box on the left side of the CNC's home page.

Listservs

Two listservs focus on specific questions, allowing members to get information and advice from their peers. The ResourceFamilies list discusses issues related to the recruitment, retention, and support of foster and adoptive families and kinship caregivers. To sign up, complete the second subscription box at <http://www.casey.org/cnc/contact.htm>. The sibling-issues group is devoted to the discussion of issues concerning the placement of siblings in foster care, kinship care, and adoptive homes. To sign up or learn more about this small group, send an email to sdougherty@casey.org with a brief statement about your interest in this area.

Information and Referral Service

Information and referral services are provided on an individual basis. The CNC will answer your specific questions pertaining to the recruitment, retention and support of resource families or will help you locate other resources that may be of assistance. Email cncinfo@casey.org, call 1-888-295-6727, fax 202-467-4499, or send your request to: Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support
1808 Eye St. NW, 5th floor
Washington, DC 20006

If you have any questions about the CNC or the services it provides, you can use any of the contacts listed above, or contact the Director, Kathy Barbell, directly at kbarbell@casey.org. I hope that you will take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the website and consider taking advantage of this wonderful and free resource!